

About the Wildlife Health Event Reporter (WHER)

What is the system designed to do?

This web system was designed to record wildlife mortality observations by citizens concerned about dead or sick wildlife. Observations collected by the system include:

- What type of animal or species was seen and the total number of animals observed?
- Where were the animal(s) observed?
- When were the animal(s) observed?
- What actions were taken? For example, the animal(s) was/were left as found, removed or sent elsewhere for investigation
- Comments about noteworthy details about the wildlife observation event

After recorded, these observations can be joined with other wildlife disease sightings, and viewed in tabular reports or on a map, enabling people to see where similar events are happening.

Why do we want this information?

With the help of everyday people, this system can collect timely and useful information about wildlife mortality events (e.g. date, location, and affected species). Then this same wildlife disease surveillance data can be integrated and summarized by the system to provide essential information for better understanding wildlife disease patterns and their potential impact on wildlife, human, and domestic animal health.

Who is using the information?

This information is being used by natural resource managers, researchers, public health officials and legislators in effort to protect the well-being of all living things and promote a healthy ecosystem by:

- Assisting in detection of common disease events and biosecurity concerns,
- Explore the interconnections between human, domestic animal and wildlife diseases
- Helping design and coordinate disease control and prevention strategies

Will I be contacted about my the information I provided?

If the information you provided needs to be investigated in more detail, a wildlife health professional will contact you using the information you provided with your log in account. *If you did not make your contact information available, you will not be contacted.*

Who developed the WHER?

This project is a collaborative effort of USGS NWHC and the NBII Wildlife Disease Information Node, with assistance of our partners:



**University of Wisconsin Nelson
Institute for Environmental Studies**



**University of Wisconsin Division of
Information Technology (DoIT)**